

- 15 -

CLAIMS

1. A household appliance, especially a built-in household appliance comprising a front cover disposed in front of a front door and at least one optical status display device which is hidden in a built-in state of the household appliance and/or when the front door is closed, and comprising at least one light guide for transmitting a signal light emitted by the optical status display device,
characterised in
that the optical status display device (17) is located outside an upper edge (27") of the front door (4).
2. The household appliance according to claim 1, characterised in that the light guide (20) is arranged such that the signal light (19) can be conducted and/or transmitted and/or imaged in an area (22) of the household appliance (1) which is visible to the user so that the operating status of the household appliance (1) can be checked even when the front door (4) is closed.
3. The household appliance according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the light guide (20) is arranged so that the signal light (19) can be transmitted in the direction of the front side (21) of the front cover (5).
4. The household appliance according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the front surface (18) of the front door (4)

- 16 -

encompasses the optical status display device (17).

5. The household appliance according to claim 4,
5 characterised in that at the position of the optical status display device the front cover (5) has at least one through hole (34) as far as the front side (21) of the front cover (5), which surrounds at least one light guide (20).
10
6. The household appliance according to claim 5, characterised in that the through hole (34) is substantially cylindrical.
- 15 7. The household appliance according to claim 5 or 6, characterised in
 - that a handle (31) is mounted on the front cover (5) and
 - 20 - that the handle (31) embraces the light guide (45, 47) such that the signal light (41, 43) emitted by the optical status display device (17) is visible in the handle (31).
25
8. The household appliance according to claim 7, characterised in that the handle (31) is a light guide.
- 30 9. The household appliance according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that a side edge (27) or a lower edge (27') of the front door comprises the optical status display device (17).

- 17 -

10. The household appliance according to claim 9, characterised in that the light guide (20) is a displaceable light guide (73).
- 5 11. The household appliance according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the front door (4) encompasses the optical status display device (17") outside the edges (27, 27', 27").
- 10 12. The household appliance according to claim 11, characterised in
- that a first part of the light guide (6) is arranged such that the signal light (60) can
15 be transmitted from the optical status display device (17") to the edge (27, 27', 27") of the front door, and
 - that a second part of the light guide (62) is
20 arranged so that the signal light (60) can be transmitted at least as far as the front side (21) of the front cover (5).
13. The household appliance according to claim 12,
25 characterised in that the second part of the light guide (62) is displaceable with respect to a first part of the light guide (61).
14. The household appliance according to any one of
30 claims 1 to 3, characterised in that a housing (23) of the household appliance (1) comprises the optical status display device (17').
15. The household appliance according to any one of
35 the preceding claims, characterised in that the

- 18 -

light guide (20, 62, 73) can be adapted with regard to its light guiding path (77, 77') to different thickness (75, 75') of the front cover (5, 5').

5

16. The household appliance according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the light guide (20, 47, 52, 61) can be fixed flush to the optical status display device (17, 17', 17").

10

17. The household appliance according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the light guide (20, 47, 61, 62) comprises at least one glass fibre.

15

18. The household appliance according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the light guide (20, 47, 61, 62) comprises at least one plastic fibre.

20

19. The household appliance according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the optical status display device (17) is embodied so that at least the operating states (ON, OFF) of the switched-on and/or switched-off household appliance (1) can be signalled.

25

20. The household appliance according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the optical status display device (17) comprises at least one light-emitting diode (33).

30

21. The household appliance according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the optical status display device (17) is constructed

35

- 19 -

so that a signal light (41, 43) of different colour is emitted for different operating states.

22. The household appliance according to any one of
5 the preceding claims, characterised in that a plurality of light guides (28, 30) are provided to transmit signal light (19) pertaining to different operating states.
- 10 23. The household appliance according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that light guides (28, 30) of different colour are provided to display different operating states.
- 15 24. The household appliance according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the household appliance (1) is a dishwasher or a refrigerator.

20